



Open Road



Volume 13

Issue 5

The Official Newsletter of the Indy Miata Club

May 2002

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Chuck Wills
President
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Well, I've had a lot on my mind the past few weeks. Most of it car related, so this seems like the perfect forum to get it off of my chest.

I almost traded in "Ol' Blue", aka "The Blue Beast". That's our Supercharged '97 Miata. I'm feeling quite guilty about it now, but at the time it seemed like such a good idea. You see, Teresa Turbo has been in desperate need of a yellow Miata for several years. We've looked for a '92 Sunburst car for a long time, but have not been at the right place or at the right time to get our hands on one. You can imagine my surprise when the factory came out with not just one yellow, but two! First they hit me with the '02 SE yellow and tan leather that was available for pre-order by MOC members only. Ohhh baby, that was tempting. Then the factory gave me the ultimate 1-2 knockout punch with the latest SE twins -- the Titanium and the Blazing Yellow Mica. I thought I'd died and gone to Miata Nirvana. It's like the factory had been listening to my prayers! The main problem was that the powers-that-be at Bank One were not listening. No matter how hard I prayed to the "Cash Fairy", my piggy bank got no heavier. Oh well... yellow, yellow everywhere, but not a drop-to drive.

I think "The Blue Beast" knew something was up, and unfortunately the "trade in talk" hurt it's feelings. Shortly after calling about the Yellow SE, I started noticing fluid drips on my garage floor. "The Beast" was trying to tell me something... and its method of conveying the message was with the mother of all differential leaks. OK "Ol' Blue", point taken! After a new bearing and seal job, we were back on good terms.

Can you see how my troubles are starting to come together now? Teresa Turbo wants a yellow more than anything.... "The Blue Beast" wants to stay in our garage. What's a guy to do? You think that's a tough situation? Oh, read on, my Miata friends..

Last weekend I had the chance to pit-crew for Shane Benson, proprietor of AIM Tuning and now, a Spec Miata racer. (Spec Miata is a new racing series just for Miata's, where the cars are built to a formula and they are all the same). It was two days at Raceway Park doing wheel changes, alignments, fuel runs, and lap timing. Shane did very well by winning his class and beating cars in some faster classes. On top of that, he set the track record for Spec Miata's. (Way to go, Shane!) The problem with this, it's given me the urge to go racing again. It's like a deep, primal urge... sort of like the "need" to drink beer while you watch the game or the "need" to eat just one more potato chip. You just can't help it! You see the racecars and you know that you've just gotta do it.

So, that's where I'm at right now. It is so tempting to take "The Blue Beast" and make it a race car. All I have to do is strip the interior (including A/C and power steering), install a roll cage and fire system, bolt on a racing suspension and we're racing! The down side is that it wouldn't be a good street car anymore. No interior, no A/C, no radio. I can just see Teresa Turbo climbing through a roll cage muttering under her breath "What has he done now!" For the sake of marital bliss, I'd better not convert "The Blue Beast" to track duty quite yet.

Quite a problem, isn't it? Can't get a new yellow, can't find an old yellow, can't convert "The Beast" to a track car.... I do have a solution, but it will take everyone's help. Please send donations to the "Teresa Turbo Needs a Yellow" fund. If I can get her a yellow Miata, then I can hit the track with "The Blue Beast". I'm sure I can find a way to make your contribution tax deductible. Maybe we should call it the "Teresa Turbo Needs a Yellow for Homeless Kids" fund. I'm sure the IRS will give us a Tax Exempt status with a name like that! So don't delay! Please send your check or money order today!

On a more serious note, we've got some great events coming up:

~ The May 19 rally should be a lot of fun -- you have to make up your own route. And you thought we were kidding when we talked about a "build your own rally" event in the April Fools "Speed Bumps" newsletter! Come and check it out. I promise it will be fun! Please note that this is a SUNDAY rally. I know many of our

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